



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8

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Ref: 8EPR-SA

May 1, 2012

Mike England
Rico Town Manager
PO Box 9
Rico Co. 81332

Re: Rico Argentine Mine Site – mine water investigations report

Dear Mr. England:

Please find enclosed the Source Water Investigation Report summarizing investigations performed by EPA as to potential sources of mine water discharging from the St. Louis Tunnel. As we have discussed, a portion of the work evaluated the potential that Silver Creek flow may be contributing to the mine water flowing from the Argentine Mine underground workings. Other elements of the work were focused on the pathways of the mine water within the workings at the Blaine adit and Argentine Mine shaft and connections to the discharge at the St. Louis Tunnel.

The findings of the work in June and October of 2011 are summarized in the report. The conclusion regarding the Silver Creek flows is that a portion of creek below the town's water intake is losing flow to ground water. However, it is not possible to determine that the loss in flow enters the mine workings. At this time, there are no plans to conduct additional tracer studies.

If you have questions regarding this work please feel free to contact me to discuss these results. Thank you for your cooperation during these studies, and I look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,


Steven Way, OSC
Response Unit

Enclosure



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